



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 6**

**1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500**

**DALLAS, TEXAS 75270**

March 3, 2022

Mr. Thomas Harris  
Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 94396  
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70804-9396

Dear Mr. Harris:

This letter transmits EPA's end of-year (EOY) evaluation of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Injection and Mining Division (IMD) Underground Injection Control (UIC) program for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021). The EOY includes both UIC oversight and related Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) topics. Region 6 UIC oversight staff provided the draft FY 2021 program review to Mr. Steve Lee of your staff on February 28, 2022.

Oversight of State UIC programs remains a priority for Region 6. I commend the staff of LDNR IMD for achieving excellent numbers in their FY 2021 UIC grant work plan program targets despite restrictions and hardships related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, I would like to commend LDNR for their continued engagement with EPA in confronting difficult problems, such as the Cornerstone waste-mixing issue. In FY 2021, LDNR also continued to initiate program, regulatory, and legislative updates to promulgate a smooth transition in Class VI primacy to the state of Louisiana.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this EOY evaluation, call me at (214) 665-8138, or your staff may call Mr. Ken E. Johnson at (214) 665-8473. If your staff has specific questions about UIC grant performance, please contact Mr. Michael Vaughan at (214) 665-7313; or questions about EPA's program oversight, please contact Mr. Samuel Yun at (214) 665-7371.

Sincerely,

*Charles Maguire*

Charles W. Maguire

Director

Water Division

Enclosure

cc (w/encl.): Mr. Steve Lee, P.G., Director, Injection and Mining Division  
Mr. Richard P. Ieyoub, Commissioner, Executive Division  
Ms. Kellie McNamara, P.E., Engineering Section Manager, Injection and Mining Division  
Ms. Corey Shircliff, P.G., Geological Section Manager, Injection and Mining Division